

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
November 5, 2012

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Hermine Bernstein	Sue Ramsburg	Dennis Ford		
Rae Ann Butler	Pat Rosensteel	David Gray, Comm		
Diane Julian	Carolyn True	Millard Haines		
Carol Krimm, Alderman		Debra Savageau		
Louise Lynch		Dan Yeeles		
Mary Rice				
Virginia Skelley				
Steve Wilhide				

- I. Call to Order** – RaeAnn Butler called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.
- II. Welcome & Introductions** – RaeAnn welcomed all attendees.
- III. Action on the Agenda** – There are no additions to the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes – There was not a quorum of members today so the October 14th minutes were not approved at this meeting.

V. Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Gray was not present at today's meeting. No report.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Krimm expressed a concern which occurred to her during the recent severe weather of Hurricane Sandy. The concern is for seniors who may be vulnerable and alone during this type of extreme weather. This led to discussion on the availability of a listing or directory of seniors which could be used to alert neighbors or churches of seniors who may be at risk. Carolyn reported that calls were made to seniors who are served by the Senior Care program or receive meals via MoW or the home delivered meal programs. Seniors have been encouraged to register for "Alert Frederick County". Confidentiality is an issue when trying to compose this type of directory. The Department can not make unsolicited calls. Carolyn is not aware of any other jurisdictions having any similar listing. Louise will ask at the next week's state CoA meeting. The need for these safety checks may grow as the older population ages in place.

VI. Mission Moment, Sue Ramsburg – Sue Ramsburg is the receptionist who provides information to seniors who inquire at the Frederick Senior Center and the Dept of Aging. Senior center questions are typically about classes being held and bus trips sponsored by the senior centers. Currently the bulk of DoA calls are seniors calling for appointments for a Medicare D plan review. There is some confusion for seniors who assume this is also open enrollment for their Medigap/supplement plans. Calls are also received from families who find themselves in the caregiver role and are seeking resources. Some families are moving their senior parents from out of state and are trying to move their current subsidy services with them. Some of the crisis calls received are regarding an unplanned lack of housing. People that call in crisis are usually waiting until the last minute to explore their options. Seniors sometimes call for snow removal and/or leaf removal. As they age in place, they are less able to do these strenuous tasks. Some calls are from seniors who are seeking dental services which are extremely lacking due to non-coverage through Medicare. Other medical calls are for seniors seeking physicians who will accept Medicare, specifically seniors who have QMB (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary) as part of the insurance coverage. Commission members expressed the importance of tracking senior needs in the community.

Sarah Ferrall, Partners in Care – Partner's in Care assist older adults with tasks that allow them to stay in their home safely. Sarah

receives calls from seniors who need rides to grocery stores and medical appointments. Recently she has been receiving more calls for in home care and light housekeeping. The bulk of Partners in Care program is transportation. There is always a waiting list for new members to join. She receives referrals from the DoA, AERS (Adult Evaluation Review Services), and from Frederick Memorial Hospital. The volunteers can sometimes make families aware of possible safety issues in the home during their interactions with the clients. Sarah does transport some veterans to Martinsburg and/or Ft Detrick. Members include the clients/consumers and the volunteers. Sometimes a volunteer who does transportation or other tasks may need to use other services provided by the program. Members donate funds and/or hours of service. Funds are received from local organizations and some state resources. The PiC thrift store is located in Pasadena. The wait list has approximately ten clients waiting to be interviewed for services. The request is for a weeks notice for transportation need. Medical appointments have priority over shopping or social trips. Transportation to Baltimore and Washington has been provided but is limited. Sarah does outreach and marketing as much as possible. Most of the membership is closer to Frederick City.

VII. Nominating Committee Update, Diane Julian – RaeAnn shared with commission members the recent health news regarding Pat Tudor. Pat recently received a health diagnosis which prompted her to resign from the commission. Pat has a very supportive family and wants to spend quality time with them now.

Diane has informed Joyce Grossnickle of the CoA's vote to approve Ernell Graham as a member of the Commission. This has not gone before the BoCC at this time. Diane reminded members who terms are coming to an end to send a letter to Joyce if they intend to remain on the CoA. Members whose memberships will expire in December are Diane Julian, Dennis Ford, Steve Wilhide, and Ginny Skelley. These members will receive notification from Joyce. A request for new members will need to be sent to Joyce to be included in the next advertisement. It was suggested to send a letter to the leaders of the municipalities to announce membership needs during their community meetings.

Public Relations Committee, Steve Wilhide – Steve revisited the topic of press exposure. Sherry Greenfield, a reporter for the "Gazette", is interested in helping with this initiative. Members who have volunteered for the subcommittee for this project are Steve Wilhide, Hermine Bernstien, Louise Lynch, and Deb Savageau. There will be an article regarding the MoW program. There was a suggestion to nominate Sarah Ferrall for the "Slice of Life" article which appears in

the *Frederick News Post*. Hermine will email the interested members to set up a date to meet.

Advocacy Training, Steve Wilhide, Louise Lynch- Louise will contact Rick Weldon to get some advocacy training for members. Most of the advocating to be done by this Commission will be on the state and local level. Rick has offered to do this training whenever we are ready for it. It was also discussed to include other senior groups in this training.

- VIII. Needs Assessment, Pat Rosensteel –** We were awarded the grant that was requested. The Request for Proposal has been sent to Procurement for review. The BoCC is aware that the grant was received. The hope is that the assessment will be close to completion this time next year.

Pat wanted to recognize Carolyn for her efforts during the recent Hurricane Sandy. Carolyn had to serve as the Shelter Manager during this recent event. She assisted the Red Cross in staffing the shelter in Brunswick. Ginny also commented on consequences the extreme weather caused her organization.

Hermine took a few moments to recognize the fact that sometimes new members are not aware of the backgrounds or professions of the current members. At one time, a profile of each member was created. Ginny has volunteered to organize a document of member's experience.

- IX. TSAC, Alderman Krimm –** This group did not meet last month..

State CoA, Louise Lynch – The State Commission will meet next Wednesday.

Partners in Care, Diane Julian – Diane stated that Partners in Care is a designee in the Combined Charity Campaign.

Friends of MoW, Louise Lynch – There will be a fundraiser at Silk and Burlap this Friday, November 9th from 6pm-9pm. A portion of the sales will be donated to Friends of MoW. This is a very upscale boutique.

USM, Ginny Skelley – Ginny missed the last meeting. The group will meet again next Monday.

Adult Public Disabled Review Board, Mary Rice – Mary attended her first meeting last month. Several cases were reviewed and all

clients are receiving appropriate services. The next meeting will be on December 3rd.

Maryland Access Point, Kathy Schey – Carolyn reported that this initiative is up and running. Kathy has been doing a lot of outreach and marketing.

Director, Carolyn True – There are seven different programs being sponsored by the Dept of Aging at the various senior centers. Carolyn presented flyers with a description of each program. All are listed on the Dept of Aging website.

As requested by members at a recent CoA meeting, one way to help the Dept of Aging is to participate in the gift wrapping party for the “Be A Santa to A Senior”. Feel free to bring or drop off extra wrapping paper or gift bags. There was a Christmas tree in each of the local Walmart stores with tags containing suggestions for gifts for local seniors. Another way to help local seniors is to help organize local snow shoveling or leaf raking teams/projects for needy seniors. Community service is no longer a requirement for local high school students. Holiday cards sent to homebound clients is another great way to help serve local seniors. There are currently 70 MoW clients, 40 HDM (home delivered meal) clients and 75 Senior Care clients.

The Dept of Aging will no longer provide MoW meals on County observed holidays for the rest of this year. The dates for the 2013 calendar year will be going out when in place. This program has been running a deficit and this is an attempt to save funds. Vacancies in the program are not being filled. The option of paying by credit card will soon be in place with the hope that it will be easier for family members to contribute to the cost of meals for their family member.

Carolyn and Kitty Devilbiss have been working on a subcommittee as part of the local health improvement program. The goal of this subcommittee is to provide some needed dental assistance to seniors in need. They were recently notified by the chairperson that the University of MD School of Dentistry is willing to start a clinic in Frederick. It probably will not occur until 2014 but it is a good start.

Steve stated that another unmet need in Frederick County is mental health for older adults. There was an attempt to have Frederick County a “designated mental health shortage area”. This endeavor was not completed.

- X. **Announcements, All –**
- XI. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Frederick County Commission on Aging
11/5/12

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

December 10, 2012, Commission on Aging, 1:00 at the Frederick Senior Center,
1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD

December 21, 2012, Holiday party at the Frederick Senior Center, 1:00pm-3:00,
1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD